

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET



SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

November 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/Ops

9/2 Dec.

2.

3.

C/E&PS

9/27

4.

~~DD/FBIS~~

5.

D/FBIS

6.

7.

~~PO/RA~~

8.

SA/CD

27 Dec

9.

10.

C/AS

11.

C/PERS

1/4

C/B&F/AS

12.

DD/FBIS

3 Jan

13.

SA/CD

14.

C/AG

15.

Exec. Reg.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



2 December 1988
FBIS-5619-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau -- November 1988

I. GENERAL

A. Demonstrations to protest various issues continue to hold prominence in news from the Republic. D/FBIS Bob Manners had the opportunity to witness some of the activity involved in a Seoul-style demonstration during his visit to the Bureau on 17 November. Riot police surrounded the Embassy and neighboring ROK Government buildings to prevent farmers demonstrating against imports of U.S. beef from approaching the area. On the same day demonstrators believed to be radical students attacked the Hannam Village U.S. military housing area, damaging several vehicles and evoking condemnation from the South Korean media. On 19 November, D/FBIS saw groups of young people run past his hotel as he was preparing to take a walk. The youths were fleeing a confrontation with police after an aborted attempt to march on former president Chon Tu-hwan's house. Elsewhere, radical students were arrested attempting to enter the USIS building in Seoul on 21 November and Yonhap steelworkers protesting under-the-table political contributions during the Chon regime were guided past the Embassy by police on 15 November. Americans are still able to move about the Republic with little fear of personal harm.

B. The value of the dollar dipped below the 700-won psychological barrier at the beginning of the month. So far this year the won has appreciated by 16 percent against the dollar. Newspaper reports indicate that the exchange rate is expected to hit 675 won to the dollar by the end of the year.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. Viewers throughout the Republic have been glued to their television sets for much of the month to watch the National Assembly hearings on problems associated with the Chon regime. The Bureau has been taping the hearings to provide VSLs for headquarters consumers.

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2. In events related to the National Assembly hearings, on 23 November Chon Tu-hwan made a televised public apology, giving up his wealth and retreating to the seclusion of a Buddhist temple, and three days later ROK President No Tae-u followed with a televised speech asking for forgiveness for Chon as well as promising further steps in the democratization process. Both speeches were processed quickly and filed at priority precedence.

3. November was the month for North Korea to respond to South Korea's recent reunification proposals with several initiatives of its own. On 8 November North Korean media reported a detailed proposal for troop reductions and North-South talks, a proposal for "high-level" North-South political and military talks in mid-December followed on 16 November, and some progress in the North-South preliminary parliamentary talks was reported on 17 November. Editors were kept busy processing the items at high precedence and keeping Embassy consumers informed of the events.

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4. Senior Editor [] Associate Editor [] and Communications Unit Chief [] worked together to print out an updated version of the Lateral Services List to replace the version supplied by Headquarters, which had become quite worn and out of date.

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5. The North's clandestine transmitter the Voice of National Salvation was heard without interference for over two weeks on 3480 kHz. By the end of the month, however, interference was again observed. Recordings were made for review at Headquarters.

B. Communications

Primary circuit outages on 6, 21, 22, and 24 November gave the Bureau further opportunities to use the international direct dial modem backup system. Over 100 items have been filed over the IDD backup with minimal problems within the Bureau. Editors and communicators have demonstrated the ability and willingness to use the IDD modem as a regular alternate circuit.

C. Technical

1. On 23 November a Tangyong Antenna Company color tv booster was installed at the Joint Duty Office to improve the reception of Pyongyang Television Service. Initial results indicate that the picture quality has improved.

2. During the month the Bureau received the following from Headquarters:

1 Okidata Microline 192 Plus printer (s/n 71181131894), 1 serial port card for the Okidata printer, 2 hard disk controller cards (s/n 431566 rev "J," 781802 rev "X1"), 1 Seagate ST-225 20 mb hard disk.

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3. During the month the Bureau sent the following:

1 Racal-Milgo model 1822D modem to Headquarters, 1 Concord V.22 modem to Bangkok Bureau.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Junior editor [] departed for a PCS assignment on the Wire at Headquarters on 2 November.

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2. The Bureau Chief, Chief Monitor [] and Korean Unit Chief [] paid a visit to the home of the late Korean Unit Chief [] on 28 November to present a memorial plaque from the Bureau and condolence messages from present and former Seoul Bureau staffers and FBIS management.

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3. [] has accepted the Bureau's offer of the part time associate editor position, which has been vacant since the departure of [] in October.

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IV. VISITS

A. D/FBIS Bob Manners visited the Bureau on 17 November on a Far East Bureau management visit.

B. Engineer [] visted the Bureau on TDY from 15-18 November.

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C. AD language officer [] visted the Bureau on 25 November for familiarization and discussions on coverage and publications.

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D. Korea analyst [] visted the Bureau on 15 November for a general discussion of the Korean situation while attending a conference.

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[]
Chief, Seoul Bureau

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau